

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 6, 11, and 16 being independent. Claims 1 and 11 are amended herein. Support for the claim amendments and additions can be found in the original disclosure. No new matter has been added.

Allowable Subject Matter

Initially, Applicant notes with appreciation the indication that claims 6-9 and 16-19 are allowed.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

In the Office Action, claims 1-5, 10-15, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,536,703 (Jablway et al.) in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0132757 (Fernandez).

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Nevertheless, without conceding the propriety of the rejection, and in the interest of expediting allowance of the application, independent claims 1 and 11 are amended herein for clarification. Support for the claim amendments can be found in the original disclosure at least at paragraphs 14 and 17 and FIG. 1.

Independent claim 1, as presently presented, recites an apparatus for connecting a tone generator to a plurality of conductors in a communication line, the apparatus comprising, among other things:

a first plurality of leads comprising an electrically conductive portion having a first end and a second end, wherein the first plurality of leads are commonly electrically attached at the first end and wherein the first end is configured to electrically attach to a signal output of a tone generator and the second end is configured to electrically attach to a signal conductor terminal of a cross-box; and

a second plurality of leads comprising an electrically conductive portion having a first end and a second end, wherein the second plurality of leads are commonly electrically attached at the first end and wherein the first end is configured to electrically attach to a common return of the tone generator and the second end is configured to electrically attach to a common terminal of the cross-box.

Jablway pertains generally to a method and apparatus for testing cable wire connected to remote terminals (Jablway, Title and Abstract). The integrity and connection of cable wires extending between two banks of terminals are checked for shorts of the wires to ground, to battery wiring between each other and for opens and misconnections or cross-connections of the wires (Jablway, Abstract). Recognition circuits control, analyze, and display the test results to apprise operators stationed at the ends of the cable (Jablway, Abstract).

However, Jablway et al. fails to disclose or suggest “a first plurality of leads ... commonly electrically attached at the first end and wherein the first end is configured to electrically attach to a signal output of a tone generator and the second end is configured to electrically attach to a signal conductor terminal of a

cross-box” and “a second plurality of leads ... commonly electrically attached at the first end and wherein the first end is configured to electrically attach to a common return of the tone generator and the second end is configured to electrically attach to a common terminal of the cross-box,” as presently recited in independent claim 1.

Fernandez was cited for its alleged teaching of a cable testing adapter comprising cable testing module 1 and cable testing module 2, wherein cable testing module 2 “can receive test signals at any one of cables 14a-14l ... so that test signals can be received at any one of the cables 14a-14l. However, Fernandez fails to remedy the deficiencies in Jablway et al. noted above relative to claim 1. For example, Fernandez also fails to disclose or suggest “a first plurality of leads ... commonly electrically attached at the first end and wherein the first end is configured to electrically attach to a signal output of a tone generator and the second end is configured to electrically attach to a signal conductor terminal of a cross-box” and “a second plurality of leads ... commonly electrically attached at the first end and wherein the first end is configured to electrically attach to a common return of the tone generator and the second end is configured to electrically attach to a common terminal of the cross-box,” as presently recited in independent claim 1.

Accordingly, claim 1 is allowable over Jablway et al. and Fernandez, whether taken alone or in combination (assuming for the sake of argument that the documents could even be combined as suggested in the Office Action).

Independent claim 11, as presently presented, recites a system for testing a communication line, the system comprising, among other things:

a first plurality of leads comprising an electrically conductive portion having a first end and a second end, wherein the first plurality of leads are commonly electrically attached at the first end and wherein the first end is configured to electrically attach to the signal output terminal of the tone generator and the second end is configured to electrically attach to a signal conductor terminal of a cross-box; and

a second plurality of leads comprising an electrically conductive portion having a first end and a second end, wherein the second plurality of leads are commonly electrically attached at the first end and wherein the first end is configured to electrically attach to a common return of the tone generator and the second end is configured to electrically attach to a common terminal of the cross-box,

wherein a single output tone signal emitted by the tone generator is simultaneously distributed to a plurality of electrical conductors of the communication line.

Claim 11 is allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to independent claim 1.

Dependent Claims 2-5, 12-15 and 20 depend from one of independent claims 1 and 11, and are allowable by virtue of this dependency, as well as for the additional features that each recites.

Conclusion

Applicant submits that the claims in this application are in condition for allowance. **If there any issue remains that would prevent allowance of this application, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact the undersigned attorney to discuss the issue.**

Respectfully Submitted,

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